Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

†105. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 2775 km. long Indo-Iran gas pipeline 760 km. will pass through Pakistan;

(b) whether the safety of gas pipeline passing through Pakistan is still a matter of concern;

(c) if so, the steps Government are going to take in this regard; and

(d) whether Pakistan is also a partner in this project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the route suggested by BHPBilliton, the Iran-Pakistan-India onland gas pipeline would traverse about 800 km. of Pakistan territory.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) India will take gas at the Indian border. The project developers have to cover the risk of the project for the Pakistan segment of the pipeline by securing adequate financial and sovereign guarantees as well as necessary insurance cover. The responsibility for this will rest with the Iranian side and the project developers. There would be adequate "supply or pay" conditions for ensuring security of natural gas supply for India. To provide additional security, gas storage facilities in India as well as short-term LNG supplies are proposed to be built into the project structure.

(d) Sir, Pakistan would become be a partner through a separate agreement on transmission and transit to be negotiated between Pakistan and Iran, and would also consume a part of the gas exported from Iran.

Cost of production of LPG

106. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been paying subsidy for LPG supplied to consumers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.